



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
HAGÁTÑA, GUAM 96910  
U.S.A.

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2015-08

RELATIVE TO ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

**WHEREAS**, Guam shares many of the characteristics that have placed small island states on the international stage as the most vulnerable, and first to experience, the impacts of climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, impacts of climate change predicted for Guam, such as excessive rainfall, stronger tropical storms, drought, ocean acidification, coral bleaching, salt water intrusion, rising sea levels, storm surges, diseases, rising temperatures, increased migration, and invasive species can threaten the island's security and resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the impact of climate change and climate variability are not solely environmental, but also will have detrimental socioeconomic impacts to Guam and her people in the near and long term; and

**WHEREAS**, impacts of climate change can potentially overwhelm existing infrastructure and create stressors that present risks to Guam's economy and the services provided to Guam residents and visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, Guam's remote location in the most active tropical cyclone basin in the world underscores the critical need for the community to be resilient, self-sustaining, and prepared; and

**WHEREAS**, successful coastal zone and land management practices are crucial to ensuring the community is resilient and better prepared to protect our island's natural and manmade resources; and



**WHEREAS**, on November 1, 2013, President Barack Obama signed Executive Order 13653 on preparing the United States for impacts of climate change. This executive order directs U.S. federal agencies to take steps which support the efforts of State and local communities to prepare for the impacts of climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, it is imperative that the government of Guam begin systemwide coordination and long-range planning efforts to mitigate the potential adverse environmental and socioeconomic impacts of climate change.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, EDDIE BAZA CALVO, I Maga'låhen Guåhan**, Governor of Guam, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Organic Act of Guam, do order:

1. The establishment of the Guam Climate Change Task Force [hereinafter Task Force].
  - a. The Governor shall designate the chair and co-chair of the Task Force.
  - b. The Task Force shall select a secretary to record meeting minutes.
  - c. Representation from the following agencies is required on the Task Force:
    - i. Office of the Governor
    - ii. Guam Environmental Protection Agency
    - iii. Guam Energy Office
    - iv. Department of Agriculture
    - v. Department of Land Management
    - vi. Department of Chamorro Affairs
    - vii. Department of Public Health and Social Services
    - viii. Department of Public Works
    - ix. Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense
    - x. Bureau of Statistics and Plans
    - xi. Guam Economic Development Authority
    - xii. Guam Memorial Hospital Authority
    - xiii. Bureau of Budget Management and Research



- d. In addition to the above, the Guam Power Authority, the Guam Waterworks Authority, the Guam Community College, and the University of Guam shall be invited to join and participate as members of the Task Force.
- e. Members of the Task Force shall:
  - i. Regularly participate in meetings called by the Chair of the Task Force, and send a proxy if he or she is unable to attend;
  - ii. Seek the guidance of the Governor's Climate Change Advisory Committee;
  - iii. Assist government of Guam agencies by identifying funding sources, such as federal grants, to help support strategic planning, adaptation initiatives and the creation of a vulnerability assessment;
  - iv. Survey and assess opportunities for the government of Guam agencies to reduce their individual dependence on fossil fuels;
  - v. Identify education and training opportunities related to climate change and sustainable development for government of Guam agencies to participate;
  - vi. Partake in activities that encourage public awareness about climate change;
  - vii. Oversee the creation of the Guam Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment by:
    - 1. Ensuring agency representatives understand climate change prior to completing their vulnerability assessment;
    - 2. Identifying an assessment model for government of Guam agencies to follow;
    - 3. Consolidating the vulnerability assessments completed by each government of Guam agency into a comprehensive assessment;
    - 4. Providing government of Guam agencies with specific guidance and steps on how to improve these plans before they are finalized;
    - 5. Verifying that community input is included in the agencies' assessments, and that the Climate Change



Advisory Committee has reviewed and approved the comprehensive assessment before it is finalized; and

6. Submitting the Guam Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment to the Governor of Guam for review and approval.
  - viii. Provide government of Guam agencies, committees, and councils with a copy of the finalized Guam Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment when requested; and,
  - ix. Apprise the Governor on agencies' compliance with the mandates outlined in this Executive Order.
2. Within one year of the enactment of this Executive Order, all government of Guam agencies shall:
- a. Designate an agency point of contact who will be responsible for corresponding with the Task Force regularly, providing pertinent data, completing mandated deliverables, as well as serving as a conduit of information between the Task Force and public on climate change;
  - b. Work with the Task Force to educate a minimum of two (2) staff members per agency on the impact of climate change;
  - c. Complete a comprehensive vulnerability assessment pertaining to their agency mandates, including fiscal, environmental and socioeconomic impacts of climate change that, at a minimum:
    - i. Includes the methodology and findings from the comprehensive vulnerability assessment;
    - ii. Identifies vulnerabilities and their significance;
    - iii. Identifies solutions that will help the agency and the island increase its resilience and adapt to the vulnerabilities found;
    - iv. Assesses or develops new policies and programs related to climate change that affect agency operations, infrastructure, the community, as well as addresses mandates from the Federal government;
    - v. Provides an implementation plan that reflects a timeline depicting how and when these policies will be executed into agency operations, as well as the challenges in doing so;



- vi. Includes specific opportunities, such as federal grants, that could finance the implementation of these solutions; and,
  - vii. Convey what steps are being taken to capitalize on these financing opportunities.
  - d. Submit their comprehensive vulnerability assessment to the Task Force;
  - e. Incorporate the assessment's findings and policy recommendations into agency short and long-term strategic plans; and,
  - f. Reach out to local, regional, federal and international subject matter experts when needed.
3. The establishment of a Climate Change Advisory Committee [hereinafter Advisory Committee].
- a. The Governor of Guam shall select members of the Advisory Committee.
  - b. Advisory Committee members shall contribute their scientific and management expertise to the Task Force.
  - c. Advisory Committee members may include, but are not limited to, individuals with an extensive knowledge in climate variability, meteorology, coastal management, maritime issues (i.e. ocean acidification, coral reefs, fisheries, ocean economy), energy usage, drinking water, storm water runoff, invasive species, agriculture, renewable energy, infrastructure, as well as federal and international initiatives related to climate change and infrastructure.
  - d. Advisory Committee members shall:
    - i. Attend meetings held by the Task Force when needed;
    - ii. Brief the Task Force about significant findings, events, and funding opportunities pertaining to climate change;
    - iii. Assist the Task Force in educating government personnel as well as the people of Guam about the various impacts of climate change;
    - iv. Help the Task Force interpret how scenarios depicted in climate change models will impact Guam and its neighboring islands;



- v. Review the Guam Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and provide the Task Force with recommendations;
- vi. Review policy recommendations; and
- vii. Assist the Task Force with activities that will build upon Guam's resilience and adaptability.

**SIGNED AND PROMULGATED** at Hagåtña, Guam, this 15 day of April, 2015.



  
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**EDDIE BAZA CALVO**  
*I Maga'Låhen Guåhan*  
Governor of Guam